

Appl. No.: 09/695,184  
Amdt. dated July 2, 2004  
Reply to Office action of April 21, 2004

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently amended) A method for determining a predicted health of a set of components of a computer system that would result from an application of a proposed intervention to ~~an existing~~the computer system, comprising the steps of:

providing information that represents the proposed intervention to a prediction program implemented by a computer, wherein the information comprises a component identification that represents a component of the computer system to the prediction program and at least one of a set of operational commands that represent operations of the computer system to the prediction program;

the computer determining a set of modifications involved in the proposed intervention, each modification involving one or more of the components of the existing~~computer~~ system;

for each modification, the computer obtaining a set of component information that pertains to the modification from a knowledge base, each set of component information specifying a set of inter-dependencies among the components involved in the modification~~wherein the inter-dependencies include a set of prerequisite components for one or more of the components;~~

for each modification, the computer predicting a health of the computer system based on~~determining~~ whether the inter-dependencies specified in the component information are satisfied.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the inter-dependencies include a prerequisite configuration for one or more of the prerequisite components.

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4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the inter-dependencies include a prerequisite set of parameters for one or more of the prerequisite components.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the inter-dependencies include one or more conflicting components for one or more of the components.
6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the inter-dependencies include a conflicting configuration for one or more of the conflicting components.
7. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the inter-dependencies include a conflicting set of parameters for one or more of the conflicting components.
8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising ~~the step of~~ determining one or more changes to the proposed intervention in response to the predicted health.
9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising ~~the step of~~ generating a predicted health indicator by applying a combination function to a predicted health of each component in the system.
10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising ~~the step of~~ determining an indication of uncertainty associated with the predicted system health.
11. (Currently amended) ~~An apparatus~~ A storage medium that stores computer readable instructions for determining a predicted health of a computer system that would result from an application of a proposed intervention to an existing the computer system, when executed, the computer readable instructions perform a method comprising:  
interpreting a representation of the proposed intervention, wherein the representation comprises a component identification that is associated with a

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component of the computer system and one of a set of operational commands that represent a proposed installation, a proposed removal, and a proposed reconfiguration of the component associated with the component identification;

~~means for determining a set of modifications involved in the proposed intervention, each modification involving one or more components of the existing computer system;~~

~~means for obtaining a set of component information that pertains to the modification from a knowledge base, each set of component information specifying a set of inter-dependencies among the components involved in the modification wherein the inter-dependencies include one or more prerequisite components for one or more of the components;~~

~~means for determining whether the inter-dependencies specified in the component information are satisfied.~~

12. (Canceled).

13. (Currently amended) The apparatus storage medium of claim 11, wherein the inter-dependencies include a prerequisite configuration for one or more of the prerequisite components.

14. (Currently amended) The apparatus storage medium of claim 11, wherein the inter-dependencies include a prerequisite set of parameters for one or more of the prerequisite components.

15. (Currently amended) The apparatus storage medium of claim 11, wherein the inter-dependencies include one or more conflicting components for one or more of the components.

16. (Currently amended) The apparatus storage medium of claim 15, wherein the inter-dependencies include a conflicting configuration for one or more of the conflicting components.

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17. (Currently amended) The apparatusstorage medium of claim 15, wherein the inter-dependencies include a conflicting set of parameters for one or more of the conflicting components.

18. (Currently amended) The apparatusstorage medium of claim 11, further comprising means for determining one or more changes to the proposed intervention in response to the predicted health.

19. (Currently amended) The apparatusstorage medium of claim 11, further comprising means for generating a predicted health indicator by applying a combination function to a predicted health of each component in the system.

20. (Currently amended) The apparatusstorage medium of claim 11, further comprising means for determining an indication of uncertainty associated with the predicted system health.

21. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the inter-dependencies include one or more pre-requisite components for one or more of the components.

22. (New) The storage medium of claim 11 wherein the inter-dependencies include one or more pre-requisite components for one or more of the components.

23. (New) A system, comprising:  
a memory that stores a system health predictor application; and  
a plurality of components,  
wherein the system health predictor application is configured to interpret component identifiers associated with the plurality of components and operational commands that represent a proposed intervention to one or more of the components, and

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wherein the system health predictor application is further configured to calculate a numeric value that represents the system's health if the proposed intervention were to be carried out.

24. (New) The system of claim 23 wherein the system health predictor application is further configured to provide a non-numeric statement regarding the proposed intervention.

25. (New) The system of claim 24 wherein the non-numeric statement comprises a list of components that are affected by the proposed intervention.

26. (New) The system of claim 24 wherein the non-numeric statement comprises a suggested modification to the proposed intervention.

27. (New) The system of claim 23 wherein the numeric value is based on a weighting scheme applied to the components.

28. (New) The system of claim 23 wherein the numeric value is compared to a threshold health value to determine whether the proposed intervention is to be applied to the system.

29. (New) The system of claim 23 further comprising a knowledge database accessible to the system health predictor application, wherein the knowledge database stores information related to at least one component and wherein the information comprises a component identification, a list of pre-requisite components, and a list of component conflicts.